

LECTURE 147

ASTROLOGY - INTRODUCTION

Astrology is a universal language and one that is used quite significantly when studying the mysteries of our world and its universe. Its simple symbols give a multitude of information, and behind these symbols lie a vast realm of potential wisdom which gives a deeper understanding of the laws of life and enables one to have more comprehension of spiritual dimensions. It is through the higher intuitive mind that astrology is mostly at home both in terms of a true understanding of the dimensions of experience and levels of consciousness essential to it. The study of astrology is a form of active meditation on "life" and a way to learn of yourself.

A horoscope is a map of our solar system of a particular moment in time. In fact it is a mandala, and each person's birth chart is their own individual mandala, just as an Electional or Horary chart for a magical working is a mandala for the time and place erected. These mandalas show the form of energy, influences and potentials present. They show a composite of many diverse factors, but do not overlook the fact that they are living units of divine potential, with each a whole, a unified oneness in itself.

The origins of astrology are obscure, however, even in the earliest of times observations were made of the Sun, Moon and Constellations by mankind from all parts of the earth, who all formed their own systems according to their cultural beliefs and superstitions. Even in religious teachings from which descended Christianity, astrology was taught. This is referred to in the Bible in the "Book of Enoch", an early text relating to Gods having direct communication and mating with women. Through this intercourse forbidden knowledge was given to man. One of the sections within this Book is called "The Astronomical Book". Its emphasis is Lunar Astrology.

Astrology as we know it today began in Babylon. It progressed over the centuries where new discoveries were continually added to the founding knowledge. Some of those who

contributed greatly to this were Aristotle (384-322BC), Hipparchus (born 190BC), Ptolemy who wrote the *tetrabiblos* and the *Almagest*, Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Kepler who formed the basic of Sir Isaac Newton's work (late 17th century). (Note that during those centuries astrology and astronomy were one and the same.) However, Sir Isaac Newton's work catalysed a decline in interest and the passing of laws together with the Christian influence almost wiped out the old teachings. A revival commenced in the 19th century with a great help from the Theosophical Society and Madame Blavatsky. Allan Leo (at the turn of the century) also was a major contributor to its re-establishment. Even to this day its popularity (although separated now from astronomy) grows, and its knowledge also continues to grow due to many pioneering individuals who tap into the cosmic knowledge.

In the occult, astrology is a complete system in itself that can be studied, but its use is not that of the average astrologer who reads birth charts for people. It is used to observe the influencing vibrations of our solar system and how best to use them from the adept's perspective. It is a tool to define times of harmonious vibration for ones workings. Primarily the occultist does *Electoral* and *Horary* astrology (see lectures 152 and 153). In magical, ceremonial and alchemical work, knowledge of the planets and stars, their movements, interactions with the Earth and its beings is of great importance, as such influence is very real. The right timing (whether it be astrological, tattvic, seasonal, biological or any combination of these) of a ritual or any other magical act, ensures a successful outcome for attracting impregnating or directing the required forces.

It is for the above reasons we stress to the reader the importance of understanding astrology if studying the occult. In fact it is a **must** for the occult student to learn the basics of astrology and to study the vibrations and meanings of its symbols and their combinations.

"Without stirring abroad one can know the whole world;
Without looking out the window one can see the way of heaven. The further one goes, the less one knows."

Lao Tzu

Within Golden Dawn temples various astrology lectures were handed out. These of course varied from temple to temple, and within the Stella Matutina a number of these lectures were withdrawn due to the onslaught of astrological books being published and made available to the general public, which members could

purchase and study from. This then, left only the use of astrology in magic, to be taught to Order members. In the New Zealand Temple, Whare Ra, the above was no exception, nor is it an exception in the New Zealand Thoth-Hermes Temple. Lessons 148, 149, and 150 following are 3 particular lectures that were still handed out to members at Whare Ra. The first is undated and unauthored, though indications are that it was issued from a Golden Dawn temple as it was definitely issued in the Stella Matutina. The second and third are GD lectures that were written by Brodie Innes (Order motto being "Sub Spie"). From these two lectures it is obvious that the Placidus house system was the one used within the Order, which is the system still used here for very definite reasons that we hope will be very clear to you after studying the astrology lectures provided.

Some mention should be made to a published lecture by Mathers about 1911. This is a simple method of astrology (see "Complete Golden Dawn System of Magic" by I. Regardie) and is in the writer's opinion an inferior work of Mathers and very uncharacteristic of his genius. On doing a number of tests on this method it proved itself to be haphazard and in the writer's opinion should be avoided.

The Astrology section in this correspondence course is not devised to teach you astrology in any depth, but only to introduce it to you and make you aware of its use in the Golden Dawn. To understand astrology in the depth that is generally needed, please get hold of some of the books suggested below and read them. However, you would have seen in past lessons, and will see in future lessons the use of astrological association (see Kabballistic lessons on the Paths, and the Tarot lessons). These applications should have, over time, provided an understanding for you of how astrology is taken away from the day to day fortune telling and personality analysis to an esoteric centering. It should have also given general information on the meanings of planets and signs and in the latter Tarot lessons, the use of fixed star astrology (the constellations), in the Golden Dawn. You will find more information on fixed star astrology in "The Complete Golden Dawn System of Magic" Tarot section.

We have included a lecture on Natal Calculation and some basic information on Electional and Horary astrology, progressions and transits. They are important areas to learn therefore mention has been made of them in the hope that the reader obtains a published book and learns further.

A Planetary Hour lecture is also included, as knowledge of planetary hours throughout each day and night are also part of timing a magical operation to a point of time where energies are most harmonious, just as tattvic hours are applied.

There is one point the reader must remember. The Adept does not manipulate nature to suit his purpose when appointing a time most advantageous to a proposed working the Adept adjusts his/herself to nature and the energies s/he gives forth. So often have I seen people adjusting their concept of the meaning of something just because it would be convenient to them. Their workings invariably go wrong. "Speak to the Earth and it will teach you."

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**SUGGESTED READING:**

Alan Leo's works:      "Astrology for All" \*  
                            "The Key to your own Nativity" \*  
                            "The Art of Synthesis"  
                            "Esoteric Astrology"  
                            "The Progressed Horoscope"

"The Astrologer's Handbook" by Frances Sakoian & Louis S. Acker\*

Noel Tyle's works Volumes I to XII\*

Stephen Arroyo's:      "Astrology, Psychology, and the Four Elements"  
                            "Astrology Karma & Transformation"

When you have reached a more advanced knowledge try and read as much of Dane Rudhyar's works as possible. "The Galactic Dimension of Astrology - the sun is also a Star", "An Astrological Study of Psychological Complexes", "The Astrology of Transformation", "Astrology and the Modern Psyche", "from Humanistic to transpersonal Astrology", "An Astrological Triptych" etc.

"The Astrology of Transcendence" by Philip Sedgwick

"Electoral Astrology" by Vivien E. Robson  
"Horary Astrology" by Robert DeLuce

Note: \* for beginners

## LESSON 148

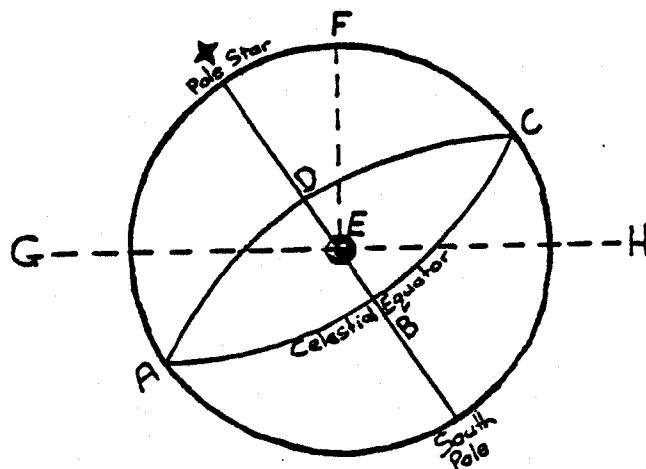
## ELEMENTARY NOTES ON ASTROLOGY NO. 1

(ISSUED BY THE NEW ZEALAND TEMPLE WHERE RA)

We may take the base theory of Astrology to be that the character, fortune, personal appearance etc., of everyone depends to a large extent on the various forces flowing into the earth from the regions of space at the time of his birth, and the acting and reacting on the nature so formed of the forces from time to time flowing in upon the earth, and affecting him during his life - such forces being named influences (i.e. flowings in) - further, that the nature and character of their influence depend upon the exact time, as they vary from moment to moment and from place to place of the earth's surface, and that the position of the stars and planets indicates the nature and character of each influence sufficiently to form a fairly accurate judgment.

The first point then is, given a certain time and place, to find out exactly what was the aspect of the heavens then and there. For this purpose we require a few simple rules for understanding the nature and movements of the starry sphere as viewed from the earth, and how to use the tables of calculations which are published and easily accessible.

1. Imagine the earth and sky to be as it were a ball within a hollow sphere, the latter studded with stars.



The observer in the Northern Hemisphere is supposed to be standing at E. F is the Zenith or point directly above his head, and GH is his horizon. The line ABCD is exactly midway between the Poles of the Starry sphere and is the celestial equator. If you notice the path in the sky which the sun traces on the 21st of March you will have it exactly.

2. This starry sphere apparently turns round the Earth once in about 24 hours (the slight difference may be neglected at present) from East to West. I say apparently, for it is only apparent motion that we need concern ourselves with.

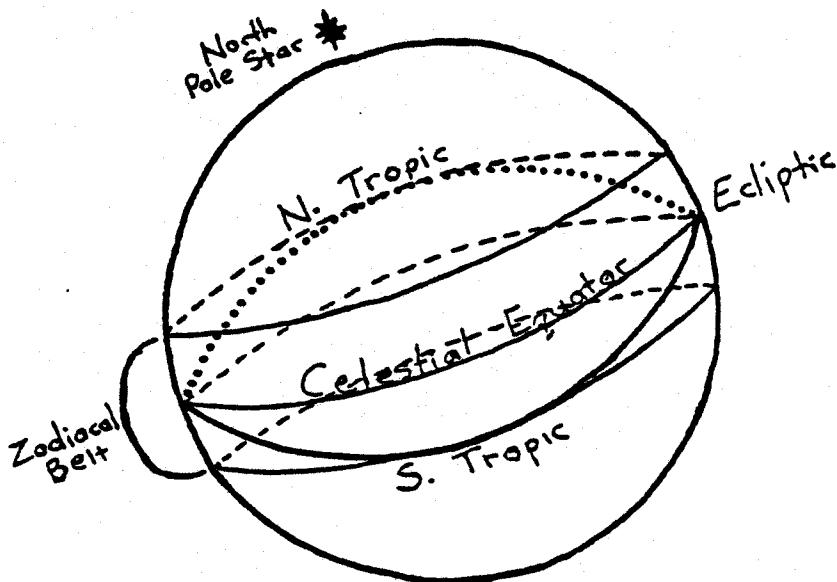
3. Some of the heavenly bodies appear to wander with a motion of their own on the rotating sphere, moving with it, but also moving with a slower motion of their own upon it, as though flies were crawling on a spinning top. They are called Planets (or wanderers) and are (so far as need now be considered) the following:-

| Planets  | Symbols |
|----------|---------|
| Saturn   | ♄       |
| Jupiter  | ♃       |
| Mars     | ♂       |
| The Sun  | ○       |
| Venus    | ♀       |
| Mercury  | ☿       |
| The Moon | ☽       |

(Uranus  $\text{H}$ , Neptune  $\text{N}$ , Pluto  $\text{P}$ , and Chiron  $\text{C}$  were not included in this lecture. This lecture concentrated on the seven occult planets only. C.Z.)

4. Of these the Sun appears to pursue a perfectly even course. If we imagine a "great circle" drawn through the hollow sphere of the stars (note: a great circle of a sphere is one whose plane exactly bisects it - i.e. if we can conceive the sphere to be cut through in the line of any "great circle" it will be cut in two halves like an apple). Such "great circle" to be inclined to the Celestial Equator crossing at two exactly opposite points, this will be the "apparent path of the Sun". Along this path the Sun appears to move among the stars with a motion of his own, while being carried round by the whirling star-vault, and his motion is in the contrary direction; so that while the hollow sphere of the stars seems to be whirling round from East to West, the sun apparently every day crawls a little bit to the East. His own motion is thus a trifle slower than that of the star-sphere, so

that while the star-sphere whirls around the Earth (apparently) 366 in the course of the year, the Sun only goes round 365 in the same period. There are therefore 365 "solar days" in the year, and the "sidereal day" being in fact about four minutes shorter than the solar day, there are 366 "sidereal days" in the year. The sun's "apparent" path is called the "Ecliptic".



5. The Sun reached a point at the greatest distance North of the Celestial Equator and then turns South. He again reaches a point at the greatest distance South and turns North. These "turning points" are called Tropics. Through each of these draw a circle parallel to the celestial Equator. A belt of the star-sphere will be enclosed between them. This in the heavens is called the "Zodiacal Belt".

A similar belt on the Earth is said to be "within the Tropics". The "Zodiacal Belt" is all that need be considered in Astrology. (note: To "consider" is to put stars together and study their influence).

6. The Sun, as we have seen, moves with a regular motion on this portion of the star sphere. All the other planets move rather irregularly (apparently), sometimes going forward, sometimes stationary. Sometimes retrograde. These apparently irregular motions arise from the relative motions of the Earth and the Planets and need not concern us now.

7. Now imagine the star-sphere and the earth cut through in the circles of the tropics, as you might cut an apple at right angles

to the core. Imagine the section laid on the table before you, and you have the first idea of what is represented by an Astrological figure.

8. Half of it would be that part of the belt which we see above the horizon - the other half, the corresponding part below. The path of the Sun at midsummer would give the upper face of one section and his path at midwinter the lower face. Now before we can form an "astrological judgment" we must know accurately the position of the belt and the constellations therein with reference to the particular spot of the earth's surface that we are "considering", also the exact position of the planets on the belt and their relation to each other and to the particular spot of Earth.

9. First as to the belt. Stand facing South and imagine that an iron rail of a half-circular shape is erected in front of you. The middle and highest part of it being just high enough to come between your Eye and the Sun at Noon, the ends stuck into the ground exactly East and West of where you are standing. If this were done at the Equinox, and you were to stand in the same place all day from sunrise to sunset, you would see the sun rise and travel exactly along the course of your rail till he set at the far end of it. Now divide your rail into six equal spaces. Three on each side of the highest point due South. (The author is talking in terms of the Northern Hemisphere, for those in the Southern Hemisphere the highest point would be due North. C.Z.) If you now stand in the same place when the stars come out, you will see the constellations one after another rise and pass along your rails, till they set at its farthest end. These divisions are called "Houses", and you have watched through one night the "Wheel of the Zodiac" turning through the Astrological Houses.

10. Now take on your hand a figure cut out of cardboard, in a circular shape, representing the sections of the starry-sphere described in 7. Draw a line across it through the centre and mark the ends East and West. Draw another line at right angles to this through the centre and mark the ends North and South. If you could now take this plan on section to the centre of your rail and there hold it so that its plane is tilted to the same slope as the plane of the rail, and its East and West line in a line with the East and West line of the rail, then a pin placed at right angles to the section in the centre of it will point exactly at the North Pole Star.

11. If you divide each quarter into three divisions, you will have 12 houses represented on your paper, and every star in the ZodiacaL belt will pass in 24 hours right round the edge of your paper model. Obviously, 6 of them will be above the horizon and in sight at any one time, and 6 will be below the horizon and out of sight. The latter being behind you and towards the North.

12. Mark the Houses with numbers from East to North and West to South, beginning with 1 (called the Ascendant) just below the Eastern horizon, and so round below the earth to the Western horizon and overhead to the East again, marking the Eastern-most 12, so that a star rising passes from the Ascendant to the 12, 11, 10 and so on.

13. The turning belt has also 12 divisions called "Signs of the Zodiac". These are:

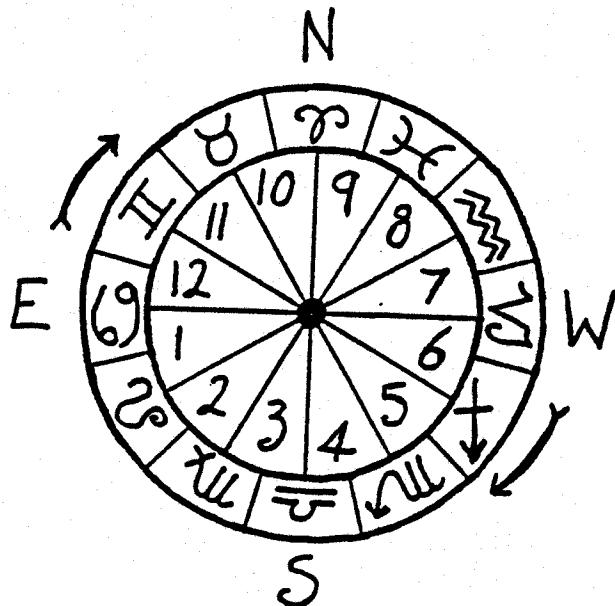
|           |        |   |                 |             |          |
|-----------|--------|---|-----------------|-------------|----------|
| 1. Aries  | Ram    | T | 7. Libra        | Balance     | <u>—</u> |
| 2. Taurus | Bull   | ♉ | 8. Scorpio      | Scorpion    | ♏        |
| 3. Gemini | Twins  | ♊ | 9. Sagittarius  | Archer      | ♐        |
| 4. Cancer | Crab   | ♋ | 10. Capricornus | Goat        | ♑        |
| 5. Leo    | Lion   | ♌ | 11. Aquarius    | Waterbearer | ♒        |
| 6. Virgo  | Virgin | ♍ | 12. Pisces      | Fish        | ♓        |

14. Each of these 12 signs is divided into 30 degrees numbered from the first point in the direction in which it moves. The "first point of Aries" is taken to be (conventionally) the place occupied by the sun on the 21st of March (the Vernal Equinox).

1  
360 part of the whole circle is a degree. 30 of these degrees being measured off give us the whole extent of the "Sign of Aries", and we can similarly measure off Taurus and so on.

15. There are good esoteric reasons why "the Ram" should always retain his Equinoctial throne, but it must be remembered that owing to "the precession of the Equinoxes" the "conventional signs" do not correspond with the constellations; in fact the constellations of Aquarius now very nearly occupies the sign known as Aries.

16. It is obvious that having now the "divisions of the Houses" and of the "Zodiacal belt", which turns through them, we have a formula by which we can put down on paper the position of any part of the belt at any given moment.

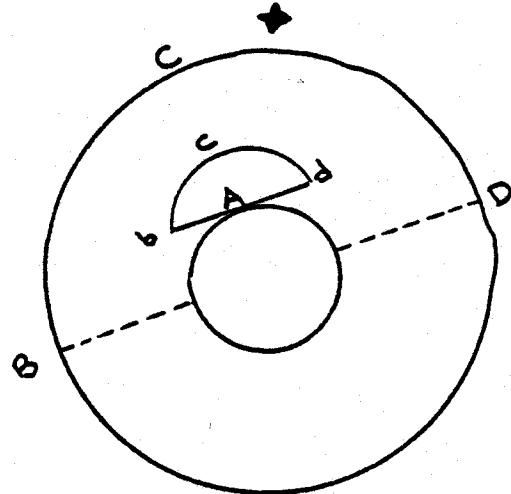


First point of Aries,  
position of Sun at  
Vernal Equinox.

The inner circle represents the Houses. The black centre the Earth. The Houses 7 - 12 those visible above the horizon.

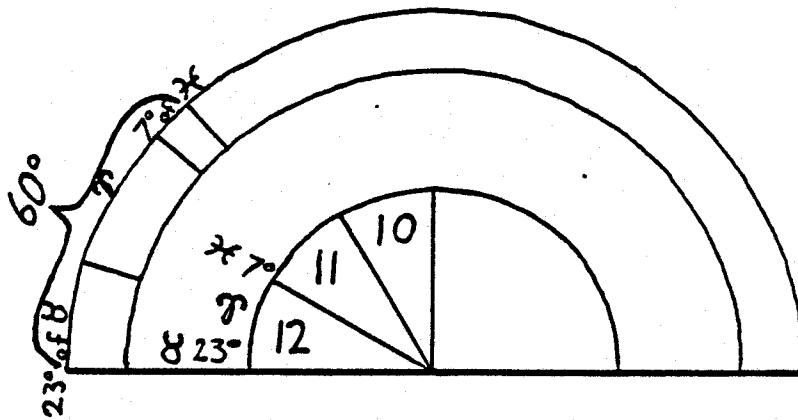
17. To make this conception easier, we have supposed that the observer was looking from the centre of the Earth, and that the Houses were measured out along the Equator. If this were so, the length of each House would accurately correspond with that of each Sign, so that if any division line of two Signs were on the division line of two Houses all the other division lines would also fit. This simple arrangement would not fulfil astrological requirements, for we require to know the position of the planets as to the Earth, and as to the particular spot of Earth. We must therefore divide the vault, or dome of the sky as seen from that point, into houses, by lines drawn from the Pole to points on the Celestial Equator. Now if you will take a ball and draw 12 equal divisions on it to represent the celestial vault, and fasten a cardboard circle to two opposite points to represent the celestial equator, marking the card with 12 divisions, and then turn your card towards the pole into the "angle of the Ecliptic", you will see that the divisions on the card representing the Signs no longer correspond with the divisions on the ball representing the Houses. Sometimes you will have a Sign completely included within a House and bits of the House preceding and the House following it, and sometimes the Sign overlapping into two or even three Houses. Further, the dome of the Sky as seen from any particular point does not correspond in horizon or apparent curvature to the hollow sphere as we conceive it as seen from the centre of the Earth. The Houses are conceived as marked on the visible dome, so the Zodiacal belt has to be adapted on to this by a process somewhat akin to that whereby the surface of the spherical earth is represented on a flat surface of a map. This is called "projection" and it necessarily puts some parts of the belt out of drawing - as it were crumples them up - as if a lady's silk dress or a balloon were to be packed flat. We must expect therefore to find that in any figure we have to deal with that the measurements of the Signs and of the Houses do not correspond, and it is sufficient for the present to understand what is the reason for the divergence. We do not need to go into the elaborate calculations by which the measurements and the

projections are arrived at.



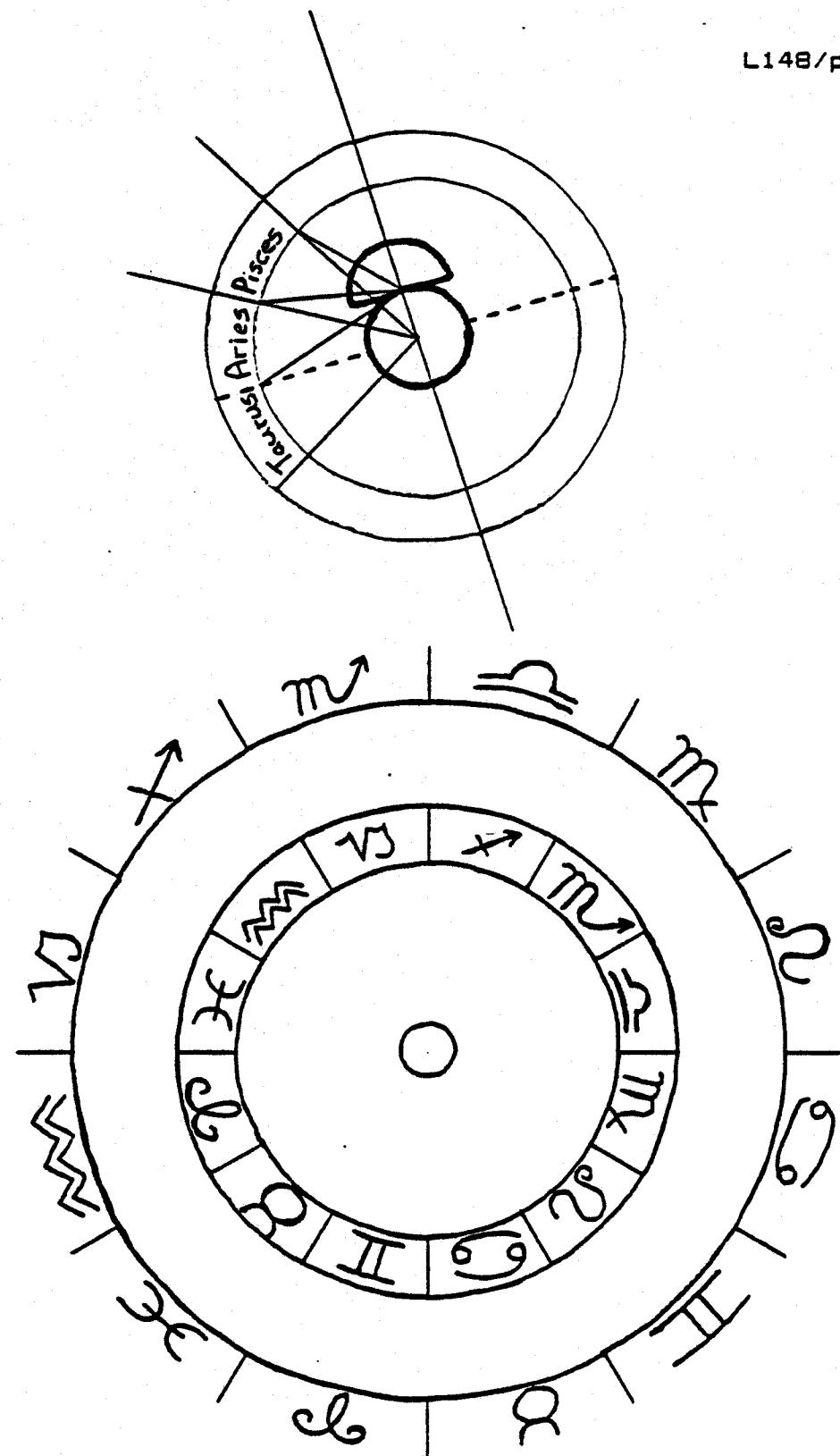
The outer black line represents the star-sphere as seen from the centre of the Earth. The semi-circle the dome of the sky to an observer at "A", BCD has to be projected on bcd, i.e. the signs and Constellations of the larger dome as they appear to the observer have somehow to be accommodated.

18. We get therefore sometimes a figure like this:



Here the 12th House contains 7 degrees of Pisces, 23 degrees of Taurus, as well as the whole 30 degrees of Aries on 60 degrees in all. Here Aries is called an "intercepted sign". Two planets situated one at each side of the 12th House would be 60 degrees apart in what is called "Zodiacal Aspect", but apparently (as looked at from the observer's point of view) they would be only 30 degrees. Both then require to be noticed and given effect to, hence the method of projection above described is resorted to.

This may roughly indicate how it is possible that a sign may be intercepted in the process of projection - it must not however be taken as showing how projections are calculated. The process is elaborate and difficult.



The outer line is the Constellations, the inner line the Conventional Signs.

LESSON 149

ELEMENTARY NOTES ON ASTROLOGY NO. 2  
SIDEREAL AND SOLAR TIME  
by G.H. Fra. Sub Spei 5=6  
Amen Ra  
(ISSUED BY THE NEW ZEALAND TEMPLE WHARE RA)

Time is ordinarily measured by Sun. That is to say, the circle which the Sun traces in the Heavens is divided into 24 equal parts, each of which is called an hour. Thus, when the Sun is upon the meridian, it is said to be 0h.0m.0s. o'clock (or what is the same thing 12h.0m.0s. o'clock): When he has traversed one division it is 1 o'clock, and so on; till the Sun is immediately under our feet, when the numbers begin again, and it is said to be 12 o'clock midnight or 0h.0m.0s. once more. This is called Solar Time. The Sun as we have seen moves with a motion of his own in the turning "star-sphere", hence even if his motions were perfectly regular, it would be open to objections as a time keeper for delicate calculations. But it is not even precisely regular, as is shown by comparing an accurate chronometer with a good dial and as is indicated by the phrase in the almanack, "clock slow or fast so many minutes", which means that a chronometer keeping exact time is behind or before the Sun at that particular time.

The chronometer is said to indicate the mean solar time. It is obvious that the Sun is only chosen as a popular timekeeper on account of the comparative ease of noting his motions. For astronomical or astrological observations we need something more exact, and for this purpose we must take a point in the "turning wheel of the Zodiac" itself. The point which has been chosen is one easy to identify and to note, viz. that which is occupied by the Sun exactly at the moment when he crosses the Equator from the South to the North, or when he shines absolutely vertically at South point on the Earth's Equator, in other words the point of intersection of the Equator and the Ecliptic. This is termed the "First Point of Aries", though the student must remember that it is a fixed point and does not coincide with the constellation bearing the name of Aries in the Zodiac (considering the circles of the Equator and the Ecliptic as permanent, the "Zodiacal Belt" turns very slowly through them, making a complete round once in about 25,000 years. This is called the "precession of the Equinoxes", so that the constellation Aquarius is now practically at the intersection of Equator and Ecliptic).

The "First" point of Aries then (or that point which lies between Aries and Pisces) is the name of the intersecting point of the Equator and Ecliptic and from this the 12 divisions are measured round the circle, and are called by the names of the Signs. These are called "Conventional Signs" in contradistinction to the "Constellations".

Now when the "Conventional First Point of Aries" passes the meridian, it is said to be 0h.0m.0s. o'clock by "sidereal time", and the circle described by this point is divided into 24 parts, each being a "sidereal hour". If the passage of the Sun over the Equator occurs precisely at noon, then the sidereal and solar time will exactly coincide. The following day, however, the Sun will, as we have seen, have crawled a little back on the turning belt, therefore the "First Point of Aries" will reach the meridian just four minutes before the Sun, or in other words the "Solar noon" will occur at 0h.4m.0s. o'clock of "Sidereal time". The following day it will be about 0h.8m.0s. I say "about", for the Sun's motion is I have said is not exactly regular, and for other reasons too long to enter into here.

To erect a figure for an "astrological judgment", we require to know the exact sidereal time, for all published tables are calculated on this. The "Ephemeris for the year" gives the Sidereal time at noon each day. If then we take the Sidereal time of the noon preceding and add to it the number of hours, minutes and seconds that have elapsed since, we shall have an accurate sidereal time, remembering that the sidereal hours go up to 24 and then start again, so that if the sum exceed 24, we must subtract 24 from it.

Remember also that hours are "Sidereal hours", not solar; that is they are a trifle shorter. If therefore 2 Solar hours have elapsed it will be 2 and a fraction of sidereal hours. To obtain this fraction the following table will be useful:-

I append an example. Let us suppose that time selected is 8a.m. on March 18th, 1848 at Greenwich. Looking at the Ephemeris I find the Sidereal time at preceding noon is 23h.40m.44s. add time elapsed from preceding noon to following morning at 8.20hr. By table, correction for 10hrs is:

|               | h m s           |
|---------------|-----------------|
| is            | 1:38.30         |
| Twice this is | 3:16. 6         |
| or roughly    | 3:17.00         |
| 43:40:44      |                 |
| plus 3:17 =   | 43:44: 1        |
| Deduct        | <u>24:00:00</u> |
|               | 19:44:01        |

which will be the exact "Sidereal time" at the moment of birth.

Correction to be made for solar Hours.

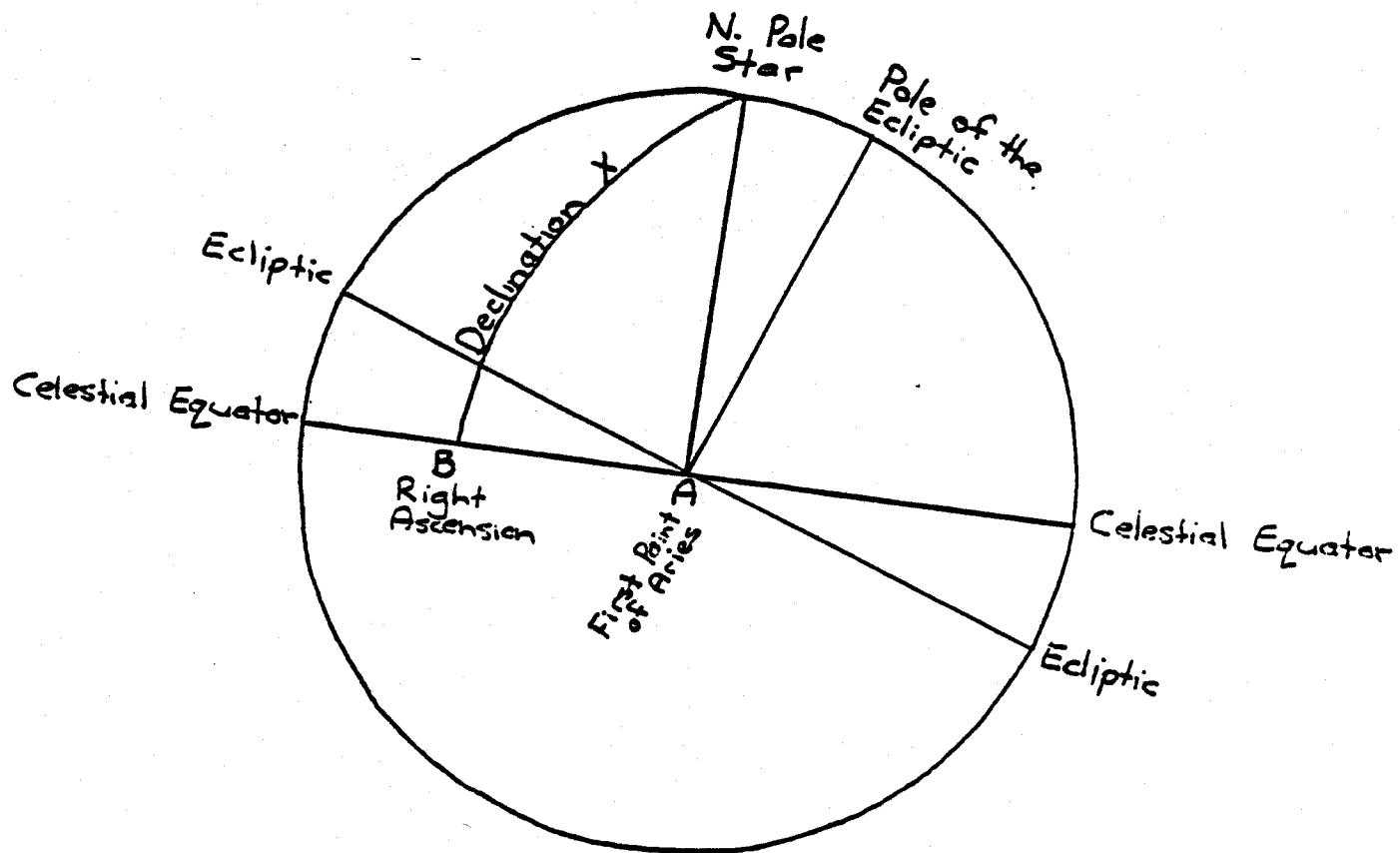
| Solar Hours | Solar Correction |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1 0 9.83    | 1 0.16           |
| 2 0 19.66   | 2 0.33           |
| 3 0 29.49   | 3 0.49           |
| 4 0 39.32   | 4 0.66           |
| 5 0 49.15   | 5 0.82           |
| 6 0 58.98   | 6 0.98           |
| 7 1 8.81    | 7 1.15           |
| 8 1 18.64   | 8 1.31           |
| 9 1 28.47   | 9 1.47           |
| 10 1 38.30  | 10 1.64          |
| 11 1 48.12  | 11 1.80          |
| 12 1 57.95  | 12 1.97          |

Observe also that the railway time all over the United Kingdom is "Greenwich mean time". If the place of birth is one degree east of Greenwich the "true local noon" will be 4 minutes earlier. If it be one degree West it will be 4 minutes later, and so proportionally. Thus in the foregoing example, if the birth had been at Bristol (ca. 3 degrees 30 minutes W of Greenwich) the true sidereal time at noon preceding would have been 14 minutes later, adding the correction:

|                | M S      |
|----------------|----------|
| for 12 minutes | 12:01.97 |
| for 2 minutes  | 2:00.33  |
| for 14 minutes | 14:02.03 |

This would give us 14m 2.3s later or 23h.54m. 46.3s as the Sidereal time at the previous noon; or 19h.58m.3.3s. as the "Sidereal time" at birth, assuming it took place at 8 O'clock "local time".

In some tables instead of Sidereal time the "right ascension of the meridian" is given, and the student should clearly understand this. It is obvious that the exact position of any point in a sphere can be indicated if we fix on a "great circle" from which to measure, and a point on that great circle as the point of commencement, for we have only to draw a line from the given point at right angles to the circle and then to measure the distance from the point to the circle, and from the point where the line cuts the circle to the agreed upon point of origin, and there we have exactly described the position of the required point.



Thus let X be the point and A the commencement of the "great circle of reference". BX the line drawn at right angles to the "great circle of reference" and AB the distance from B to the "agreed point of origin" - then AB and BX will be called the "coefficients of X", and will describe its exact position. If we take the celestial Equator to be the "great circle of reference", and the point A the "first point of Aries" (or the point where the Ecliptic cuts the Equator), then the distance AB will be called the "Right Ascension" and BX the declination of the required point. The distance along the great circle of reference, and consequently the Right Ascension and Declination, are measured in degrees, minutes and seconds instead of hours. There are 360 degrees in the great circle, 60 minutes in each degree and 60 seconds in each minute.

Assume that the "first point of Aries" is on the meridian, then the Right Ascension of the meridian will be 0deg 0m 0s. (= 0° 0' 0"), in one hour the first point of Aries will have travelled 1/24 of the whole 360 degrees of the great circle towards the West (or 15 degrees) and the Right Ascension of the meridian will now be 15 degrees. In other words, the "first point of Aries" travels one degree in four minutes (1/15 of an hour). Therefore if we have the Right Ascension of the meridian (given in degrees, minutes, and seconds) we can find the exact "sidereal time" by multiplying by 4 and writing minutes instead of degrees and seconds instead of minutes.

Example:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{Right ascension of meridian } 15^{\circ} 20' 0" \\
 \times \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad 4 \\
 \hline
 61^{\circ} 20' 0"
 \end{array}$$

or 61 minutes and 20 seconds, which gives Sidereal time, 1 hour 1 minute and 20 seconds.

LESSON 150

ELEMENTARY NOTES ON ASTROLOGY NO. 3

CONCERNING THE HOUSES

by G.H. Fra. Sub Spei 5=6  
Amen Ra

(ISSUED BY THE NEW ZEALAND TEMPLE WHARE RA)

Beginners have usually a good deal of difficulty in understanding how the actual division of the starry-sphere is represented by the figure of the Heavens set up for an "Astrological Judgment". The image of the rail in Part I shows the division of the part of the visible sky occupied by the Ecliptic into six Houses, and the turning of the Wheel of the Zodiac through these Houses. Conceive now the idea that the whole visible hemisphere (or vault) of the Heavens is bounded by the horizon, and is divided into two equal parts by the meridian [or the great circle which passes through the South point, through the Zenith (or point immediately overhead) and through the North point]. Every star or constellation therefore rises in one of these divisions, culminates when it passes the meridian, and passing through the other division sets below the horizon. The horizon and the meridian therefore form two great circles, cutting the entire hollow sphere of the Heavens into four. Each of these, divided into three by circles drawn through the points of intersection of the horizon and meridian, will represent a House.

To make this clearer, take a ball, and paint upon it a red circle, which call the Horizon, and a blue circle cutting the former at right angles, which call the Meridian. Mark one point of intersection North, and the other South. Exactly halfway between the two points of intersection, mark a spot and call it Zenith, and another point about one third of the distance from N. point to Zenith and call this the Pole Star. Through the point of intersection of horizon and meridian draw two circles on each side of the meridian, dividing the space into three small spaces. You have thus the hollow globe of the Heavens divided into twelve spaces by 12 circles, all intersecting at the North and South points on the horizon, and these 12 spaces are the 12 Houses.

Now take a point on the horizon exactly halfway between South and North, and another point opposite to this on the other side. These will be East and West points respectively. Take a

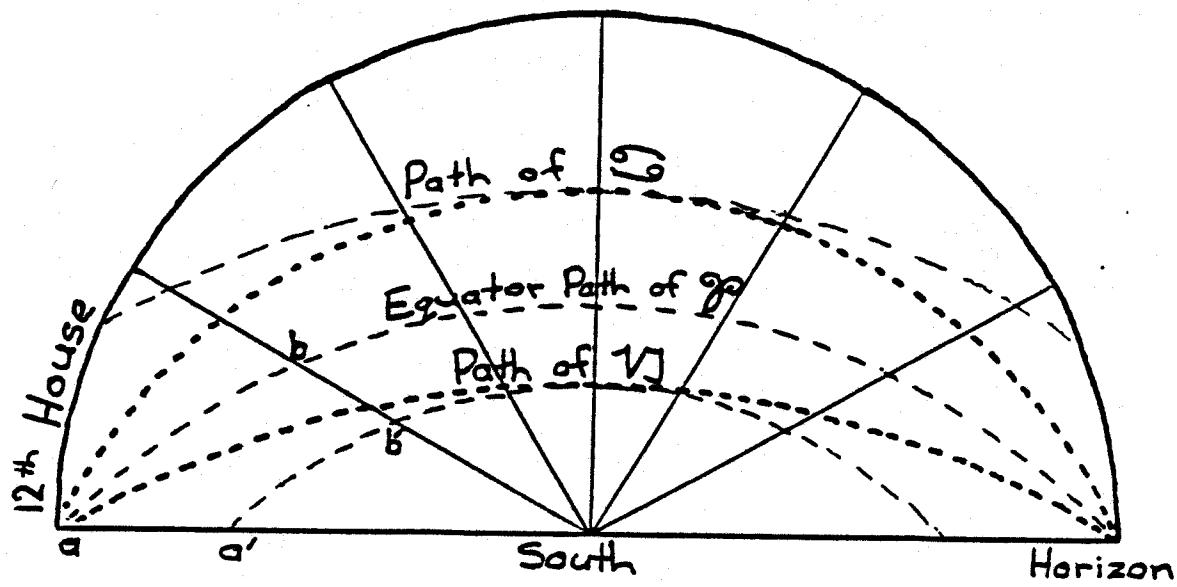
point on the meridian as far from the South Point as the Pole Star is from the Zenith. Draw a circle through these three points and call this the "Celestial Equator". Every star that rises will pass either along this (as the Sun at the Equinox will do) or it will have a path parallel thereto. By actual experiment it will be very clear that the length of the path which passes through the different Houses varies greatly according to whether the path traced by the star is North or South of the Equator, and according to how far it is distant therefrom. This simple experiment shows that the relation of the stars and constellations to the Houses varies constantly with the latitude - for example as we go North the amount of the circle of the Zodiac which is visible increases.

Thus when the first point of Aries is on the meridian of sidereal noon, the whole sign of courses will be riding over most of the Northern Hemisphere, but at Benares (Lat. 25°18') only 10°40' will be above the horizon. While at Cairo (Lat. 30°2') 12°37' will be visible. In Cyprus (Lat. 35°) there will be 15°34' risen. In Washington (Lat. 38°) there will be 17°48' risen. In Rome (41°54') there will be 19°39'. In Paris (Lat. 42°50') 24°28'. While in London (Lat. 51°32') there will be 29°36' and in Liverpool (Lat. 53°25') 28°13' etc.

It is to be noticed further that every celestial body revolves in a circle parallel to the Celestial Equator. Aries therefore crosses the sky exactly along the Equator, but Cancer crosses by an arc considerably above, and Capricorn by an arc considerably below. The Paths of these Constellations will therefore be differently inclined to the paths of the Houses; and the proportion between the 30 degrees of a great circle, which constitutes the theoretical sign and the portion of a House or Houses it is opposite to or passing through will also vary. Suppose an observer was to follow the meridian of Greenwich almost to the North Pole, he would see Aries circling round his rational horizon. Cancer circling parallel to the horizon at some distance above, and Capricornus also parallel, but out of sight below the horizon and never rising at all.

It will be obvious that Aries crosses the 12th House by a longer path (a' to b') (see diagram below). This will explain why under apparently similar conditions some signs become intercepted and others not, in the same Houses. From this it is plain that the positions of the signs of the Zodiac in the Houses must be separately calculated for the particular degree of latitude in which we are working. This has been done for many places, and excellent tables are published in the "Future" Vol. II. The computation of the variations whereby the Tables of the Houses for any given House or degree of Latitude may be arrived at, by means of logarithms, are not difficult, but the

beginner may be advised to leave these for the present, and confine his attention to places for which he can get a calculated table.



Having thus (i) discovered the local mean time, (ii) ascertained from an Ephemeris the (a) stellar time or the (b) right ascension of the meridian, (iii) being provided with a table of houses for the latitude, we are prepared to commence drawing the figure.

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The following books of tables are recommended for the student to obtain before continuing on with the next lesson.

"Raphael's Tables of Houses for Northern Latitudes" W. Foulsham & Co., Ltd, Yeovil Road, Slough, Bucks, England.

"Tables of Diurnal Planetary Motion" American Federation of Astrologers, 6535 South Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85283.

An Ephemeris, either:

"Raphael's Astronomical Ephemeris of the Planets" Places' (for the year you were born) W. Foulsham & Co., Ltd.

or an Ephemeris that covers tables for many years, which would be more useful if you are going to be drawing up charts for magical workings in the future.